



HEALTH ADVISORY #56

Get Smart about Antibiotics Week – November 14th-19th

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: 11/14/2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, CLINICAL DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO APPLICABLE MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Get Smart About Antibiotics Week (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/campaign-materials/week/promotional-media.html>) is a national campaign designed to highlight the coordinated efforts of CDC, state and local health departments, and non-profit and for-profit partners in an effort to educate people about the importance of using antibiotics wisely in both community and healthcare settings. From November 14-20, CDC and its partners will promote appropriate antibiotic use in inpatient and outpatient settings with a special focus on nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Today, infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria have become increasingly common on both healthcare and community settings. As such, patients, health care providers, hospital administrators, and policy makers must work together to employ safe and effective strategies for improving antibiotic use. CDC's **Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work** (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/campaign-materials/week/promotional-media.html>) and **Get Smart for Healthcare** (<http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare/>) programs are specifically designed to educate consumers and healthcare providers about appropriate use of antibiotics.

For more information about appropriate antibiotic use, visit WV Infectious Disease Epidemiology website at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/AtoZ/Pages/AntibioticUse.aspx>. Please feel free to contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 in WV or 304-558-5358 should you have any questions.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.